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AUG 15 2006

Docket No. F-8329

Ser. No. 10/501,904

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the claims with the claims provided in the listing below wherein status, amendments, additions and cancellations are indicated.

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (New) A toothbrush comprising:

a center rod and an arcuately curved leaf spring connected to a fore-end tip of said rod, said spring extending forwardly and curving upwardly from said tip;

a plurality of bristle segments each disposed on said leaf spring, bristles inlaid in said bristle segments extending from a bottom surface of said spring;

an actuating member including a forwardly disposed operating plate;

said actuating member being slidably disposed on said rod so that:

said operating plate is slidable over a top surface of said spring for linearly extending said spring; and

a fore-end tip of said operating plate is slidable against a rearwardly facing and upwardly slanting surface of a fore-end segment of said plurality of bristle segments for pivoting said fore-end segment relative to said rod.

5. (New) The toothbrush of claim 4 wherein:

said actuating member is normally locked against said rod;

said actuating member includes a rearwardly disposed push button; and

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said push button is pushable for enabling sliding of said actuating member over said rod.

6. (New) The toothbrush of claim 5 wherein said push button includes guide protrusions extending from opposing side surfaces and said rod includes a guide cavity formed to receive said guide protrusions.

7. (New) The toothbrush of claim 6 wherein:
said protrusions are normally locked against said cavity for preventing sliding of said actuating member over said rod; and
pushing said button releases said protrusions from said guide for enabling sliding of said actuating member over said rod and.

8. (New) The toothbrush of claim 4 further comprising:
opposing side ribs extending downwardly from opposing side edges of said operating plate; and
said opposing side ribs being capable of enclosing opposing side surfaces of a fore-end segment of said rod when said operating plate is disposed thereover.

9. (New) The toothbrush of claim 7 wherein a flexible groove is formed between said guide protrusions in said actuating member.